



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The modern maiden, on a search for a complete wardrobe and accessories, was figuratively invited today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior to take a dive into the sea. She could, the Service declared, come up with a treasure of clothing, accessories, jewelry and common everyday needs far beyond her wildest dreams. They would all be fishery by-products forming an important part of a \$34,000,000 annual industry in the United States.

Milady's wardrobe taken from the sea would feature an evening gown covered with bonefish scales and gloves woven from the fine, hair-like excrescence of a Mediterranean shellfish. There would be frocks for every occasion made of artificial silk derived from the shells of crabs, lobsters, or other crustaceans. Coats of otter, precious sealskin, and beaver, would have matching hats trimmed in mink or muskrat. Sharkskin sandals and handbags of alligator leather would be shown for street wear, with matching gloves of codskin.

Jewelry taken from the sea vies with any which Captain Kidd may have carried off in his raids. For grand occasions a lucky girl would choose a string of natural pearls. Her duplicate set of imitation pearls for everyday wear

would be made from fish scale essence -- the silvery substance in the skin of many species of fish. A coral necklace, with earrings and bracelet to match, would delight her. And a choker, pins, and bracelets -- all handcarved of ivory from walrus tusks -- would find a welcome place in her trinket box.

"Fish scale" costume jewelry -- utilizing scales of such fish as the tarpon, drumfish, and gar -- has stimulated a new and flourishing industry. Tarpon scales, as large as fifty-cent pieces and as thick as two sheets of paper, are made up into fascinating lapel ornaments, pins, and other novelties for milady.

The scales of the drumfish are especially adaptable for jewelry making because of their fine lustre and hardness. Since they are so firmly attached to the fish, an axe or a hatchet is needed to remove these scales.

The Louisiana gar -- a fish long considered a menace -- now has its scales made up into bits of costume jewelry because of their close resemblance to leaves, flower petals, and even tiny creatures.

American women buy handsome and longwearing luggage made of sharkskin, its attractive fittings made of composition derived from fish-scale essence. This same substance makes the accessories for her dressing table, the handle on her umbrella, the buttons on her sweater.

Shopping at the cosmetic counter, she buys soap made from fish oil, a hand lotion made from sea moss, a sponge, and cold cream made from whale oil. Her favorite perfume has ambergris as the fixative.

The skins of many aquatic animals can be tanned into excellent leathers. In addition to shark, varied use is made of the skin from sturgeon, gar-fish,

wolf-fish, cod, cusk, water-snakes, frogs, and eels. Bags, purses, shoes, belts, suspenders, and bookbindings are made from their leathers, and all have their place on milady's shopping list.

She buys an amber pipe for her husband and a bottle of cod-liver oil for the baby. The older youngsters enjoy the gelatin made from agar-agar, and when they fall and skin their knees iodine recovered from seaweed prevents infection. Even the canary comes in for his share of treasure from the sea -- a piece of cuttle-fishbone to balance his diet.

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